

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 080364 TOSEC 030041
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 PM-05 /021 R

DRAFTED BY T:GEHAMILTON
APPROVED BY T:GEHAMILTON
S/S-O:MARTIN

-----021621 291320Z /50
Z 291307Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

UNCLAS STATE 080364 TOSEC 030041

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 19, 1977
STATEMENT ON ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS

THE VIRTUALLY UNRESTRAINED SPREAD OF CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONRY THREATENS STABILITY IN EVERY REGION OF THE
WORLD. TOTAL ARMS SALES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE RISEN TO
OVER 20 BILLION DOLLARS, AND THE UNITED STATES AC-
COUNTS FOR MORE THAN ONE HALF OF THIS AMOUNT. EACH
YEAR, THE WEAPONS TRANSFERRED ARE NOT ONLY MORE
NUMEROUS, BUT ALSO MORE SOPHISTICATED AND DEADLY.
BECAUSE OF THE THREAT TO WORLD PEACE EMBODIED IN THIS
SPIRALLING ARMS TRAFFIC, AND BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL
RESPONSIBILITIES WE BEAR AS THE LARGEST ARMS SELLER,
I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST TAKE STEPS TO
RESTRAIN ITS ARMS TRANSFERS.

THEREFORE, SHORTLY AFTER MY INAUGURATION, I DIRECTED A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF U.S. CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER
POLICY, INCLUDING ALL MILITARY, POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 080364 TOSEC 030041

FACTORS. AFTER REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF THIS STUDY,
AND DISCUSSING THOSE RESULTS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND

FOREIGN LEADERS, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE UNITED STATES
WILL HENCEFORTH VIEW ARMS TRANSFERS AS AN EXCEPTIONAL
FOREIGN POLICY IMPLEMENT, TO BE USED ONLY IN INSTANCES
WHERE IT CAN BE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THE TRANSFER

CONTRIBUTES TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO UTILIZE ARMS TRANSFERS TO PROMOTE
OUR SECURITY AND THE SECURITY OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDS.
BUT, IN THE FUTURE, THE BURDEN OF PERSUASION WILL BE
ON THOSE WHO FAVOR A PARTICULAR ARMS SALE, RATHER
THAN THOSE WHO OPPOSE IT.

TO IMPLEMENT A POLICY OF ARMS RESTRAINT, I AM ESTABLISH-
ING THE FOLLOWING SET OF CONTROLS, APPLICABLE TO ALL
TRANSFERS EXCEPT THOSE TO COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE
HAVE MAJOR DEFENSE TREATIES (NATO, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA,
AND NEW ZEALAND). WE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR
TREATY OBLIGATIONS, AND WILL HONOR OUR HISTORIC RE-
SPONSIBILITIES TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF THE STATE OF
ISRAEL. THESE CONTROLS WILL BE BINDING UNLESS EXTRA-
ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATE A PRESIDENTIAL
EXCEPTION, OR WHERE I DETERMINE THAT COUNTRIES FRIENDLY
TO THE UNITED STATES MUST DEPEND ON ADVANCED WEAPONRY
TO OFFSET QUANTITATIVE AND OTHER DISADVANTAGES IN
ORDER TO MAINTAIN A REGIONAL BALANCE.

1. THE DOLLAR VOLUME (IN CONSTANT FY 1976 DOLLARS) OF
NEW COMMITMENTS UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AND
MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR WEAPONS AND WEAPONS-
RELATED ITEMS IN FY 1978 WILL BE REDUCED FROM THE
FY 1977 TOTAL. TRANSFERS WHICH CAN CLEARLY BE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 080364 TOSEC 030041

CLASSIFIED AS SERVICES ARE NOT COVERED, NOR ARE
COMMERCIAL SALES, WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT MONITORS
THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES. COMMERCIAL
SALES ARE ALREADY SIGNIFICANTLY RESTRAINED BY EXISTING
LEGISLATION AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH POLICY.

2. THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BE THE FIRST SUPPLIER
TO INTRODUCE INTO A REGION NEWLY-DEVELOPED, ADVANCED
WEAPONS SYSTEMS WHICH COULD CREATE A NEW OR SIGNI-
FICANTLY HIGHER COMBAT CAPABILITY. ALSO, ANY COM-
MITMENT FOR SALE OR COPRODUCTION OF SUCH WEAPONS IS
PROHIBITED UNTIL THEY ARE OPERATIONALLY DEPLOYED WITH
US FORCES, THUS REMOVING THE INCENTIVE TO PROMOTE
FOREIGN SALES IN AN EFFORT TO LOWER UNIT COSTS FOR
DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PROCUREMENT.

3. DEVELOPMENT OR SIGNIFICANT MODIFICATION OF ADVANCED
WEAPONS SYSTEMS SOLELY FOR EXPORT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

4. COPRODUCTION AGREEMENTS FOR SIGNIFICANT WEAPONS,
EQUIPMENT, AND MAJOR COMPONENTS (BEYOND ASSEMBLY OF
SUBCOMPONENTS AND THE FABRICATION OF HIGH-TURNOVER

SPARE PARTS) ARE PROHIBITED. A LIMITED CLASS OF ITEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR COPRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS, BUT WITH RESTRICTIONS ON THIRD-COUNTRY EXPORTS, SINCE THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR THE COPRODUCER'S REQUIREMENTS.

5. IN ADDITION TO EXISTING REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, THE UNITED STATES, AS A CONDITION OF SALE FOR CERTAIN WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT, OR MAJOR COMPONENTS, MAY STIPULATE THAT WE WILL NOT ENTERTAIN ANY REQUESTS FOR RETRANSFERS. BY ESTABLISHING AT THE OUTSET THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT ENTERTAIN SUCH REQUESTS, WE CAN AVOID UN-NECESSARY BILATERAL FRICTION CAUSED BY LATER DENIALS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 080364 TOSEC 030041

6. AN AMENDMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS WILL BE ISSUED, REQUIRING POLICY LEVEL AUTHORIZATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR ACTIONS BY AGENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OR PRIVATE MANUFACTURERS,

WHICH MIGHT PROMOTE THE SALE OF ARMS ABROAD. IN ADDITION, EMBASSIES AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD WILL NOT PROMOTE THE SALE OF ARMS AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILL CONTINUE HIS REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT PROCEDURES, PARTICULARLY PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, WHICH MAY PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR FOREIGN SALES.

IN FORMULATING SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CONSISTENT WITH THESE CONTROLS, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. ALSO, WE WILL ASSESS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ARMS TRANSFERS TO THOSE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES RECEIVING US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

I AM INITIATING THIS POLICY OF RESTRAINT IN THE FULL UNDERSTANDING THAT ACTUAL REDUCTIONS IN THE WORLDWIDE TRAFFIC IN ARMS WILL REQUIRE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION. BECAUSE WE DOMINATE THE WORLD MARKET TO SUCH A DEGREE, I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN, AND SHOULD, TAKE THE FIRST STEP. HOWEVER, IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE UNITED STATES WILL MEET WITH OTHER ARMS SUPPLIERS, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION, TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE MEASURES FOR MULTILATERAL ACTION. IN ADDITION, WE WILL DO WHATEVER WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AMONG PURCHASERS TO LIMIT ARMS IMPORTS.

COOPER

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 080364 TOSEC 030041

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, POLICIES, TOSEC, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE080364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GEHAMILTON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0233
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780312/aaaaakdc.tel
Line Count: 175
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8ec1d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3157055
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TEXT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAY 19, 1977 STATEMENT ON ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINTS THE VIRTUALLY UNRESTRAINED SPREAD OF CONVENTIONAL
TAGS: MASS, PCAT, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ec1d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014